

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss President Biden's short-sighted decision to release 50 million barrels of oil from America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, depleting this national security asset by nearly 10 percent when there is no oil supply shortage, only a manmade one.

The United States' oil reserve is not a tool for the President to fix his own political problems. Sadly, this administration throws money away whenever the problems they create reflect poorly on them. We have seen this with COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns and vaccine mandates keeping people out of work, leftist political aims resulting in bad legislation, and a flagrant disregard for the national debt all leading to wasteful spending.

Rather than drain one of our essential national security assets to temporarily mask the effects of their policies, this administration should instead encourage our domestic, independent oil and gas producers to take steps to get oil production back up. I shudder to think that the President might drain another 10 percent of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve 2 months from now if our oil production continues to wane.

There are other solutions to this issue, like reinstating the Keystone pipeline and encouraging oil production on Federal lands just being two of them. Instead, this administration has canceled the Keystone pipeline, which would make 860,000 barrels of oil available daily, and has demanded a 50 percent fee increase for oil and gas leasing on Federal lands.

Just 2 years ago, the United States was producing 2 million more barrels of oil per day than we are now. We are down from 13 million barrels per day to 11 million barrels per day. That means if we could lift regulations and find creative strategies to get our oil production back up, we could create 50 million barrels of oil in just 25 days rather than dip into the emergency reserves.

Historically, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has only ever been used in cases of natural disaster and war. With global unrest from COVID-19 and America's enemies looking to do us harm, this is not the time to needlessly weaken a national security asset that exists to provide energy to America in the event of an actual catastrophe in our country.

The only catastrophe in America right now is this administration's bad policies. I oppose the President using our emergency oil reserves in this brazen political tactic. This is unnecessary, irresponsible, and dangerous.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of Kansas farmers and ranchers who have the right to manage their own resources without overreaching regulation from the Federal Government.

The Biden administration is hurting farmers, ranchers, and ag-business

owners. Recently, they withdrew from the Navigable Waters Protection Rule which sought to undo the harm caused by the Waters of the United States, or WOTUS, rule from 2015, through which the Federal Government aimed to exact regulatory control over nearly all bodies of water, regardless of their size or connection to larger waterways. Because of this legislative mess, farmers and ranchers have had to conduct their businesses under three different regulatory definitions of water in just the past 6 years.

On a farm, water is the lifeblood of the operation, and farmers in Kansas don't need the Federal Government to tell them how to take care of it. Our farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists who continually update their practices to reduce water use and inputs to produce safe, affordable food while maintaining their water supply for generations to come.

Instead of worrying about what farmers in Kansas are doing with their puddles, the administration should instead focus on curbing inflation, getting Americans back to work, fixing the supply chain, and securing our borders.

□ 1030

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss one of my greatest privileges as a Member of Congress, participating in the service academy nominations process, which brings together my passions for engaging with young people, leadership development, and military service in this great country.

I am proud to come from a State with a rich history of military service. President Eisenhower graduated from West Point in 1915, which is why I felt it was appropriate to host our State's nomination process in his Presidential library in Abilene, Kansas. After watching young Kansas men and women go through the extensive and competitive nomination exercise, one of the members of our selection committee said: "Meeting and working with these young people gives me hope for the future of our country."

In the United States, we have a long tradition of young American patriots willingly embracing the duty to serve, to protect the homeland, to keep the peace abroad, and to secure our rights. Leaders serve, and I want to congratulate all the deserving young leaders who are recipients of service academy nominations. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their willingness to sacrifice for this great country.

HONORING DR. ATTORNEY JOHNNIE JONES, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this week, a Louisiana legend turned 102 years old. Dr. Attorney Johnnie Jones, Sr., has lived a lifetime fulfilling every day with service, activism, and love for family and country.

Born in 1919, he was one of eight children in a successful family who leased land in eastern Louisiana. He attended Southern University until being drafted into the Army in 1942 during World War II where he was the first-ever African-American warrant officer in United States Army history.

Jones was injured in the battle at Normandy on D-day 77 years ago. Before landing on the beach, his ship hit a mine, and he flew from the second deck down to the first. As he described it, he flew like a bullet, but he survived, coming ashore on Omaha Beach, facing off with German snipers. Later in the war, he was hit with shrapnel during a bomber attack and finished his military service in the Battle of the Bulge. These nightmarish memories have remained with Mr. JONES until today.

Much of his paperwork and records of service were lost during Hurricane Katrina, so it was earlier this year, at the age of 101, that Dr. Attorney Jones finally received the Purple Heart award in recognition of his battle injuries.

Through all that he endured, he persisted. He returned home to Louisiana, where he began to serve in a different capacity, this time as a lawyer. Just 15 days out of Southern University's law school in 1953, the Reverend T.J. Jemison recruited him to organize the United Defense League's 8-day bus boycott in Baton Rouge and defend the participants.

After the Baton Rouge City Council revoked the licenses of Black-owned transportation companies, many African Americans were forced to ride segregated buses and sit in the back of the bus or stand.

When hundreds of patrons boycotted riding in protest, some positive changes were made, though segregation still remained the law of the land. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King used the Baton Rouge protest as a model for his bus boycott in Montgomery 2 years later.

Dr. Jones defended students in drug-store sit-ins and other actions as civil rights protests spread throughout the South. During these efforts, his car was bombed twice. Immediately after his return from war, he was beaten by a White officer on his way to a doctor's appointment.

"Things weren't right," said Dr. Jones. "I wanted to fight and make it better."

Here is a man who has been through so much, who has tasted the evils of the world and has every reason to be bitter, but he isn't. However, he has insisted on focusing his life on sharing love for our State and fighting for equality.

Jones was the first African-American member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Throughout his career as a lawyer, he successfully sought pay equity for teachers and sued to desegregate parks and communities in Louisiana.

He also represented student protesters at Southern University during the civil rights movement and countless indigent defendants, and he challenged voter discrimination practices throughout the South.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to speak with Dr. Attorney Johnnie Jones on Veterans Day to thank him for his incredible service to our people in America.

On his birthday, he celebrated with friends, family, and good Louisiana seafood. Today, let's all thank Dr. Jones for his great advice that he shares with us, which is: "You have to deal with the past, and you have to deal with the history. You have to read and understand so we don't repeat the past."

Let's build better. Let's build a future for everyone.

Please join me in wishing Dr. Attorney Johnnie Jones, Sr., a happy 102nd birthday.

BORDER CROSSINGS FUEL OTHER CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue that is an unprecedented issue, the border crisis that we are facing in this Nation that is fueling other crises: national security, public safety, health, and fentanyl, all a burden on the hard-working taxpayers and the American people.

On October 3, following court orders, the Biden administration said that it would reinstate the remain in Mexico policy by mid-November. I rise today to point out that we are now in December, and no such action has been taken.

Since President Biden has taken office, CBP has encountered more illegal immigrants than in 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined. In October, 164,303 illegal immigrants crossed the border, the highest number in recorded history and 80 percent higher than the previous record for the month of October, which is from October 1999.

Mr. Speaker, 1.7 million people have crossed the border in the past year, which is roughly the same as the population of President Biden's home State of Delaware and Vice President HARRIS' home city of San Francisco combined.

These border crossings are creating many issues throughout our country. First, let's talk about safety and security.

In the first month of this fiscal year, October, CBP arrested over 680 individuals with criminal convictions and dozens of known gang members, including 23 members of MS-13. That is in just 1 month. Multiple individuals on the FBI terrorist watch list have also been encountered over the last year.

As a native New Yorker who was just blocks away from Ground Zero on 9/11,

I can tell you that I was shaken to my core by reports that Panama was in the position of having to deny over 52 al-Qaida affiliates at their border who were coming to the United States.

Last month, a 24-year-old man, who posed as an unaccompanied minor while illegally crossing our border, entered this country and then murdered his foster parents in their Florida home.

When is enough going to be enough for this administration and for my colleagues in the House?

Let's talk about fentanyl. Every Member of this Chamber knows the widespread pain plaguing our communities. We all have constituents who are suffering from the loss of life caused by an abundance of drugs being smuggled into our country. Counterfeit narcotics laced with fentanyl are being mass-produced in Mexico with chemicals from China and are streaming over our open borders. The DEA is telling us so. They say that 80 percent of fentanyl in the United States has come over our borders, smuggled by the cartels.

In the first month of this fiscal year, 2022, October, CBP seized over 1,000 pounds of fentanyl. That means that in just 1 month, CBP seized enough fentanyl to kill 236,775,024 people, American citizens. The U.S. recently recorded its highest number of drug overdose deaths in a 12-month period, surpassing 100,000 for the first time.

Over 170 people overdosed on drugs during the first 9 months of 2021 in my community of Staten Island, and I know other Members have similar stories, too. Fentanyl was present in about 80 percent of the completed toxicology reports for the 2020 fatal overdoses in Staten Island.

So I ask my colleagues, whose side are you on? Are you on the side of the drug cartels, or are you on the side of the American people?

I visited the border. I met with the CBP agents. I rode with the Texas Department of Public Safety. I can't say the same for our President, can't say the same for our Vice President, can't say the same for the Speaker.

Despite all this, the Biden administration has halted the construction of barriers while American taxpayers still foot the bill for a contract that has been in place. We are paying every month, yet the barriers aren't going up.

Instead, they want to further incentivize illegal border crossings by giving illegal immigrants \$450,000 of taxpayer money, a total slap in the face to the taxpayers who bust their butts and pay taxes and expect this government to perform properly.

The Biden administration now, in its misguided Build Back Better—or, I should say, build back broke—bill, wants to reward illegal immigration by granting mass amnesty, free college tuition, and childcare to those who unlawfully crossed.

As a daughter of immigrants, I think it is incredibly important that we en-

force our laws and give people opportunity, but let's make sure they are doing it the right way.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NAVY SEAMAN SECOND CLASS CHARLES LOUIS "SONNY BOY" SAUNDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Navy Seaman Second Class Charles Louis "Sonny Boy" Saunders of Winnie, Texas, in my district.

Seaman Saunders was serving aboard the USS *Oklahoma* on the morning of December 7, 1941. Tragically, the *Oklahoma* sustained 429 casualties during the attack on Pearl Harbor, claiming Mr. Saunders' life that morning. After eight decades, 80 years, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, has identified Seaman Saunders' remains.

This year, he will be reinterred in his hometown on the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Saunders was born to Mortimer Alvin and Melina Falke Saunders on October 16, 1923. He was the sixth child and one of four boys. His oldest brother, Adam, passed away at just 13 months old. He grew up with his sisters Lillie Mae, Mary Alice, Sadie Lee, and Anna Belle, along with brothers Sidney "Buddy" Edward and Mortimer Virgil.

The Great Depression led to difficult times as their father worked in construction and labored in the rice fields to provide for his family while his mother cared for the home and raised their children. Mr. Saunders' youngest sister, Anna Belle, always spoke of her brother's compassion and how he sacrificed so that she could have shoes for her daily walk to school.

His kind, caring, and playful nature fueled his ambition to serve our Nation. On November 23, 1940, 1 month after his 17th birthday, he joined the United States Navy. Not only did he possess a deep desire to serve our country, but he also had a great determination to make a better life for his parents and his siblings.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft launched a surprise attack on the American fleet of battleships that were moored at Pearl Harbor, thrusting the United States into the Second World War.

After Seaman Saunders' warship capsized because of the damage from the multiple Japanese torpedoes, his whereabouts were unknown. According to a casualty roster of the *Oklahoma* compiled 2 weeks after the attack, Seaman Saunders' status was labeled as "missing" but then later was amended to be "killed in action."

Those who perished aboard the USS *Oklahoma* were buried at two different cemeteries: the Halawa and Nu'uano Naval Cemeteries in Hawaii. Most of the remains were recovered during salvage operations but were unable to be